I- We have had a most beautiful summer- I have now and am in real jolly health- perhaps better than ever I was before- my deafness is one cause- and I think too the Italian climate agrees with me- I am now so comfortably settled here in my house that I have nothing to wish for- you know I have a Piano- and in the evenings many Englishmen come and make music and there are many Ladies likewise honor me- so I am not at all lonely- thank God- my health is quite restored- I am known to any other English artist here- I have contrived all by having this good country woman & her husband & sister in my house- they are very honest kind people- Comforts as are unknown to any other English artist here- I have contrived all by having

Your letter has given me so much pleasure, that I

dont know where to begin to tell you so first- your sonnets- your

Music- the poetry- and your writing, all are the things I desired to

know- and wish to happen to you- Your intended marriage I

cannot but think well of- since I think well of every thing you

do, as the result of a good heart and clear understanding- yet it

would seem to me as premature- but I cannot recollect your

age, or else that I am- perhaps I should not know you-

I have no doubt before you take this step, you will have

weighed all the circumstances- all the dark side of the

question- and only adopt it as a bettering and furthering of

your successful prospects- Remember the most difficult

thing to know is when we are best off- and how we may

become worse- I have seen so many melancholy examples

of marriage, that (as I am not in love) I almost make

up my mind to be an old Bachelor to the end of my days

- for it's a new world to a man after marriage- sometimes better

- generally worse- Leigh Hunt- is the example the most strong-

he is still a young- and has 8 children- & his prospects are

are perhaps at an end - after he blow'd the most promising
genius at first - got the sentence providing for his family
has kept him from being one of great Poets of the Age —
But I wont talk to you any thing more about it, because
I know in your situation I should not care a fig for such
advice - and even if I did so far out and omit to a Lassie as that
P. would overturn all my resolutions - So as I am to have a wife
dear Lister is her - pray give her my most kind and affectionate
salutations, with every assurance of my esteem for her amiable
character and fine talents - After I am gone I dare say I shall can pray for
your happiness - Why my dear Tom, I shall seem to dance
at your wedding, we have been always so inseparable —
- Why what a Rogue you are? did I not take you that
I had written to "Wilt thou be gone" and it had been for such
translated into Italian for a Roman Lady to sing - and now
you have gone and taken from me and made it your
own? I took even this my dear brother delight to me - I
am flattered by your taking any thought of mine - I would
give and sacrifice you any thing for your happiness & success
- So now I will give another subject from Shakespear - in
the two Gentlemen of Verona - I. 3rd. Act 2nd

1 "The current that with gentle murmur glides" and so by many winding nooks he strays
2 "How though the stream be stopt impatiently doth rage" With willing sport to the wild ocean —
"But when his fair course is not hindered 3 "Then let me go and hinder not my course
"He makes sweet music with the enamell'd stones I'll be as patient as a gentle stream
"Giving a gentle kiss to every sedge "And make a pastime of each weary step
"He overtakes in his Pilgrimage "Till the last step have brought me to my love
"And there the surest of all perfect mirth "As every sweet as after much turmoil
a blessed soul doth in Elysium —

Mr Hoskins has made me a most handsome present of all his printed Music - 30 Books

22 figures in it— all portraits from the most beautiful Roman Peasants
— In the summer I have painted 3 other pictures which are all sold
2 I have got to copy for other persons— They are all subjects of
Roman Peasants— one is a group of 4 young women in their holiday
dresses decorating the Madona with flowers— The vintage has
cost more labor than all my other pictures put together— I have
determined to make something to strike very much for
I shall [illegible] accomplished Readers I have got

I shall have the hope of seeing Grace you all next Summer— but
will be likewise to look after Commissions.— I am now beginning a
subject of King Lear— Cordelia & Kent— for Mr Erskine— that I have
promised to bring to England with me— so I will have the pleasure
to hope— Tell my dear Father, that about me all his cares are at an
end— my fortune is made if I please— and that he will get see me equal
with any one— I will some time soon satisfy all his longings to see England
all the ruined Castles and Abbeys— for I shall make this tour when I come
for the purpose of decorating some old British subject I hope to paint—
Tell him, that the good luck of having a picture in the Duke of B.s collection, is every thing